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SCALE MEMORANDUM NO. 5

General Requirements for Livestock Scales

Weighbeams: Livestock scales should be equipped with type registering weighbeams with five-pound minimum subdivisions. Where the capacity of the beams is 20,000 pounds or less, the main notches should represent 100-pound intervals and the fractional poise should have a capacity of 95 pounds subdivided into five pounds.

Weighbeam Mounting: The weighbeam should be carried on a beam stand and pillar outfit, and not be hung from a top piece or timber. The beam shelf should be rigid. The weighbeam, shelf, pillars, shelf lever, etc. should be rigidly supported on a concrete slab or on steel beams carried directly on the concrete neck walls of the scale pit. No part of the weighbeam support should make contact with the building or scale office, and the construction should be such that no amount of banging or pounding on the building or slamming of doors, etc. will cause any vibration or affect the weighbeam. The weighman's desk should be built free from the weighbeam shelf, supports or other scale parts.

Scale House: The weighbeam and weighman should be housed in a well constructed scale house or office provided with well arranged windows so that the weighman from his position at the beam will command a view of the scale platform and the approaches to the drive-on and drive-off ends of the scale.

The weighman should be placed so that his work can be readily observed by any one who cares to watch the weighing, but he should be railed or screened off so that there will be no interference with his work.

Ample, well placed lighting is essential at the weighbeam, in the scale house, and about the platform.

Scale Platform: The top of the scale platform should be level with the top of the pit walls, approaches, and ground outside. It should be roofed over and adequately protected from weather. Ramps leading to and from the scale should be avoided, as they make the scale sensitive to the wind, and

increase the difficulty of moving test weights on the scale in making tests.

The stock rack should be firmly and securely attached to and constructed on the scale platform and should be completely clear of the pit walls. It should not be permitted to come in contact with any structure, fence, post or other stationary object. Ropes, wires, chains, springs or speaking tubes, etc. should not be attached to the stock rack and at the same time be connected or fastened to any stationary object. The stock rack and scale gates should be constructed of substantial material with corner posts at least 4" x 4". The stock rack should be adequately and securely braced to maintain rigidity, and should be provided with a board six or more inches high, fitting snugly at the bottom with the scale platform, to prevent dirt, etc. from working over and getting into the clearances between the platform and the pit walls. Gates should be well constructed and hung on heavy hinges to prevent sagging. Scale gates should not be permitted to drag on pit walls or platform approaches.

The clearance between the edges of the scale platform and the inside of the surrounding pit should be even and about one inch at the ends and three-fourths inch at the sides. The edges of the scale platform should slope down inwards away from the pit wall so that any object forced down through the top of the crack will fall free.

Scale Pit: The scale should be installed in a water and rat proof concrete pit at least six feet deep, measured from the floor to the top surface of the scale platform.

The scale levers should be carried on solid concrete piers or foundations integrated with the floor or walls of the pit.

The inside walls of the pit should drop straight to the floor without shelves or ledges on which dirt may lodge or rats may nest.

The construction of the scale pit should be such that all the scale parts can be readily examined.

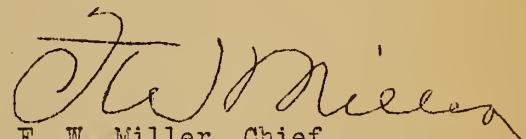
The floor of the pit should slope to a sump from which any water getting into the pit will drain off or can be pumped out promptly.

The pit should be provided with an extension light or with permanently installed lights properly placed.

Ready access to the scale pit should be provided by a stairway or hatch leading from the scale office into neck of the pit. This entrance should be where it can be seen by the weighman so that he will always know when any person is in the pit. The point of entrance should not be under the feet of the weighman. Hatches in wooden scale decks or other additional openings may be provided if desired to facilitate cleaning the pit.

Balance Indicators: The use of a good balance indicator on which the balance of the beam can be read is recommended.

Scale Tickets used with type registering weighbeams should conform to the provisions of section 201.49 of the regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act.



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LIVESTOCK AND MEATS BRANCH

